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January 17, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane - Room 1061  
Rockville, Md. 20852

DOCKET #98P-0151/CP1

Gentlemen:

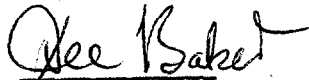
I write to respectfully urge you to grant the above petition which will prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Animals too sick even to stand pose a health threat and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Last year the USDA announced a landmark policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for the National School Lunch Program. This development shows a growing consensus, even among industry and government officials, that the marketing and slaughter of downed animals is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

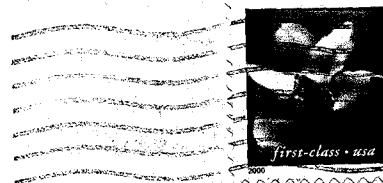


Dee Baker

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